

Restoration Advisory Board Report

The Department of Defense (DoD) understands that military installation environmental restoration activities affect the surrounding community. It is our policy to include communities in the environmental restoration process through our community involvement program. This program improves communication and cooperation between stakeholders and DoD, and has contributed to the overall success of DoD's environmental restoration mission.

History of the RAB Program

In the mid-1980s DoD established technical review committees (TRCs) to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to review and comment on technical documents pertaining to environmental cleanup efforts.

In 1994, based on recommendations from the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee that DoD further incorporate community involvement in the environmental restoration process, DoD extended the TRC concept and created Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs). Unlike TRCs, RABs are open to the public and provide the community with a means of directly participating in and evaluating all aspects of the environmental restoration process.

A RAB is composed of representatives from the DoD installation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, tribal governments, state and local governments, and the affected local community. RABs provide all affected

stakeholders with an opportunity to voice their concerns about environmental restoration activities and to provide input during the review of restoration documents.

The RAB program is now the largest public involvement effort for a federal government agency. Through RABs, community members and DoD are developing partnerships that expedite the completion of environmental restoration requirements, installation by installation.

How a RAB Works

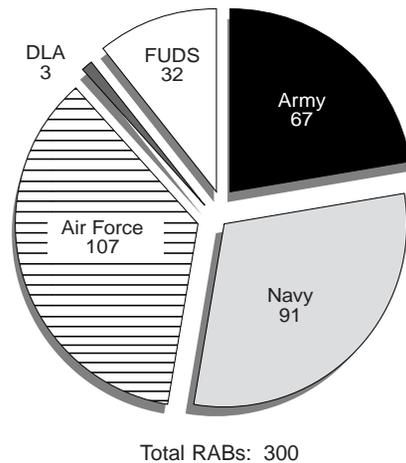
RABs are equally co-chaired by a DoD representative and a community member. The co-chairs are responsible for setting the RAB's agenda and for ensuring the facilitation of dialogue between DoD, regulators, and members of the local community on installation restoration issues.

DoD policy requires that RABs be created when there is sufficient and sustained community interest. Circumstances that point to such interest or otherwise indicate the need for a RAB may include—

- ✦ A closing or realigning installation involving transfer of property
- ✦ Fifty or more citizens petitioning for a RAB
- ✦ A request from a federal, state, or local government body to form a RAB
- ✦ An installation's decision that a RAB is necessary.

In Fiscal Year 2000 (FY00), DoD reported 300 active RABs across all of the Military Components. Although the number of RABs has remained fairly consistent, the particular RABs and installations participating in the program may change from year to year as some RABs adjourn and others form. These changes are often associated with installations completing or beginning environmental restoration activities. Figure G-1 shows the number of RABs by Component in FY00.

Figure G-1
Number of RABs per Component in FY00

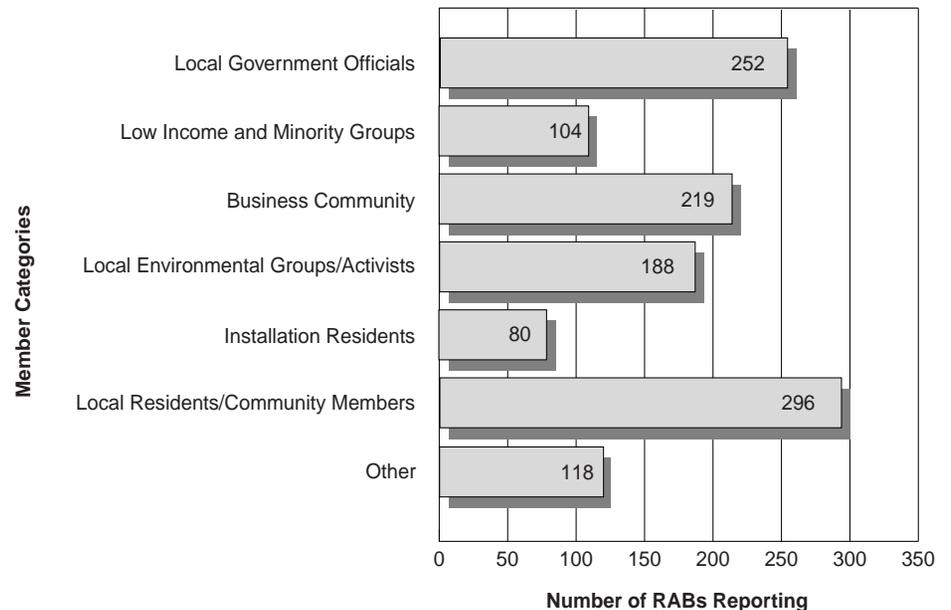


FY00 Member Representation

A RAB's mission is to bring together individuals who represent the community as a whole; embrace diverse interests, concerns, and values; and incorporate these ideas into the restoration decision-making process. Since the inception of the program, every installation with a RAB has worked to ensure that RAB membership reflects the diversity of the community it represents.

In FY00, installations reported RAB representation from community members, installation residents, local environmental groups, the business community, low income and minority groups, and local government officials. Figure G-2 shows the level of participation by each of these groups in overall RAB membership in FY00.

Figure G-2
FY00 RAB Member Representation



RAB Activity in FY00

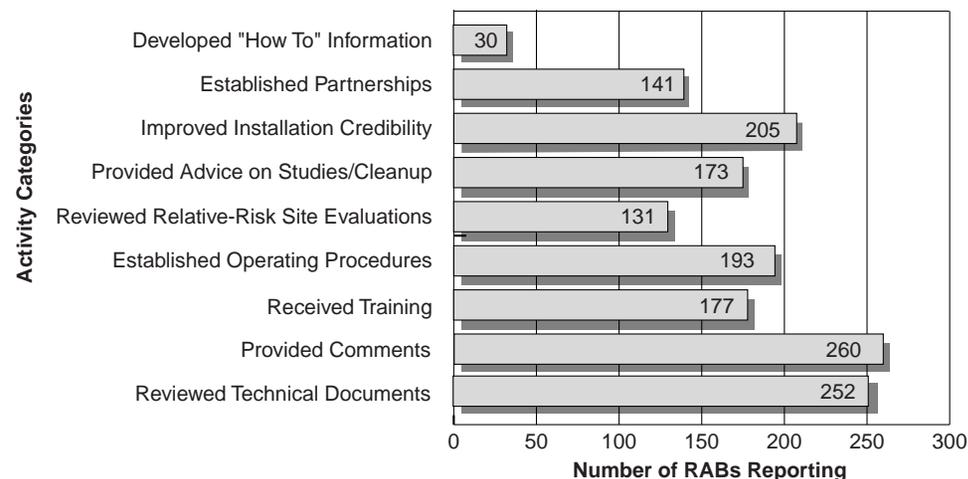
RAB members typically participate in several activities, including the review of cleanup plans and technical documents, providing comments and advice on restoration issues, and improving community understanding of, and support for, DoD's environmental restoration program. RAB involvement in these capacities helps DoD conduct more timely and cost-effective restoration by identifying issues of concern early on, thereby reducing potential communication problems that could delay restoration. RAB members have also forged working partnerships with representatives from the installation, regulatory agencies, and community members. They serve as a conduit for public participation in the cleanup process by relaying the community's views and concerns to DoD. Figure G-3 shows the primary activities in which RABs participated during FY00.

Advice from RABs

Installations in the Defense Environmental Restoration Program report that RABs improve the restoration process. In fact, at more than half of the reporting installations, RAB members have provided advice that significantly affected the scope of, or schedule for, environmental study or cleanup. In some cases, RAB members have also shared technical knowledge that helped installations develop cost-saving remedies. The advice provided by a RAB usually falls into the following categories:

- ✦ Scope of environmental studies
- ✦ Site prioritization
- ✦ Remedy selection

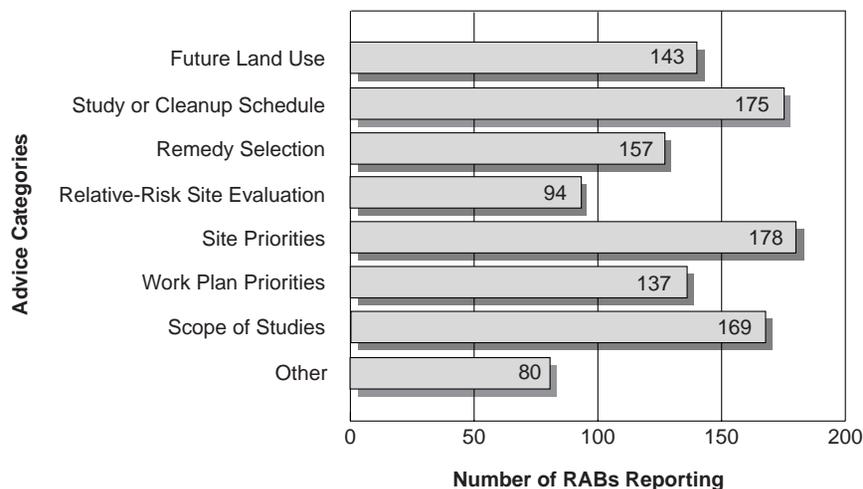
Figure G-3
FY00 RAB Activities



- ✦ Future land use
- ✦ Site study or cleanup schedule
- ✦ Work plan priorities
- ✦ Relative-Risk Site Evaluations.

The installations depend on this advice to effectively determine the best course of action in their cleanup plans. Figure G-4 shows the type of advice provided by RABs in FY00.

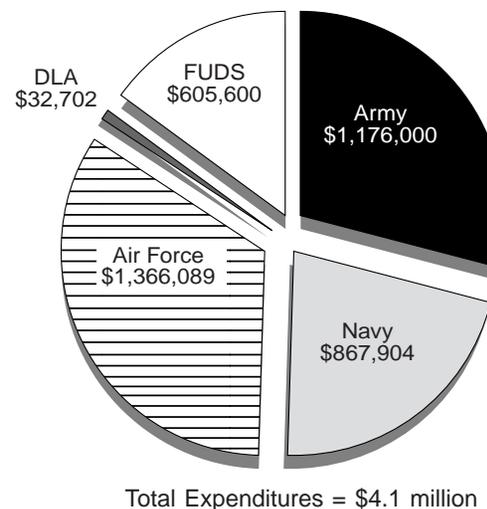
**Figure G-4
FY00 RAB Advice**



Expenditures

In administering the RAB program, DoD works to ensure that both the installations and the RABs have access to the tools and resources necessary to make the program effective. DoD provides funding for such administrative activities as document reproduction, meeting logistics, orientation training, and briefings. On average, the Military Components spend approximately \$4.1 million each year on the administrative costs of RAB operation. Figure G-5 shows expenditures for the individual Components in FY00.

**Figure G-5
FY00 RAB Expenditures by Component**



TAPP—What Is It and How Does It Work?

DoD recognizes that the issues surrounding environmental restoration can be complex, and that this complexity may be a barrier to a community’s understanding and acceptance of an installation’s environmental restoration efforts. To help break down barriers and facilitate meaningful community involvement, DoD developed the Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) program.

The TAPP program provides community members with independent scientific and engineering advice on specific projects, such as reviewing proposed remedial technologies, interpreting health and environmental effects data, and reviewing restoration documents. A TAPP award allows DoD to procure the services of an independent technical consultant with appropriate expertise to advise the RAB or TRC on a specific project, and provide RABs with an independent explanation of the technical issues. With this increased understanding comes increased community trust, confidence, and meaningful involvement in environmental restoration activities. RABs and TRCs may receive up to \$25,000 per year, or 1 percent of the total cost of completing environmental cleanup at the installation, whichever is less. Over the lifetime of the installation’s cleanup program, TAPP funding is capped at \$100,000 per installation.

DoD developed a TAPP handbook (available on-line at <http://www.dtic.mil/envirodod/rab/tapphandbk/contents.htm>) to provide RABs with information on all facets of the TAPP program. This guidance document informs communities of the benefits and availability of assistance and contributes to the overall success of RABs. TAPP awards for FY00 are listed in Figure G-6.

**Figure G-6
RABs Participating in TAPP in FY00**

Component	RAB	TAPP Award
Army	Army Research, Development, and Engineering Command (Picatinny Arsenal)	\$25,000
	Fort Pickett	\$14,792
	Fort Sheridan	\$25,000
Navy	Adak Naval Air Facility	\$24,950
	Hunters Point Shipyard	\$4,900
	Philadelphia Naval Complex	\$6,000
Air Force	Fort Yukon	\$25,000
	Point Hope	\$25,000
DLA	Defense Distribution Depot Memphis	\$25,000
	Defense Supply Center Philadelphia	\$25,000
FUDS	Kinchloe Air Force Base	\$5,000